(d) to (e) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has notified the Plastic, Manufacture and Usage Rules, 1999 amended 2000 and 2003 banning the manufacture, stocking, distribution and selling of carry bags made of virgin/recycle plastic which are below 18 to 12 inches in size and 20 microns in thickness. Some hill stations have also notified stricter norms to control use and disposal of non bio-degradable garbage in private and public places. The concerned local authorities from time to time undertake mass awareness campaign including involving local voluntary groups exhorting tourists to dispose solid waste in designated places/dustbins.

Objectives of WCCB

1888. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA; Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been notified;

(b) if so, the objectives of the Bureau; and

(c) how effectively the WCCB contains poaching in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S.REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Central Government *vide* notification dated 6th June, 2007 has set up the 'Wildlife Crime Control Bureau'. The Bureau is headed by the Director, Wildlife Preservation with headquarters at New Delhi. It has four Regional Offices *i.e.* New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata and three Sub-Regional Offices at Amritsar, Guwahati and Cochin. In addition one new Regional Office at Jabalapur has been created.

The objectives of the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau is to control wildlife crime in the country. It involves collecting and collating intelligence related to organized wildlife crime activities, disseminating the same to State and other enforcement agencies for immediate action so as to apprehend the criminals and to establish a Centralized Wildlife Crime Data Bank alongwith coordination of actions of various offices, State governments and other authorities.

Destruction of mangroves

1889. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large scale destruction of mangroves is taking place in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have contemplated any comprehensive strategy to protect the mangroves;

(d) whether Government have received proposal from the State of Kerala regarding conservation of mangrove eco-system in the State;

(e) if so, details thereof;

(f) whether necessary sanction has been given to the proposal;